



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[Document Identifiers: CMS-10653]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing an opportunity for the public to comment on CMS' intention to collect information from the public.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension or reinstatement of an existing collection of information, and to allow a second opportunity for public comment on the notice. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including the necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions, the accuracy of the estimated burden, ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected, and the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

DATES: Comments on the collection(s) of information must be received by the OMB desk officer by **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

ADDRESSES: When commenting on the proposed information collections, please reference the document identifier or OMB control number. To be assured consideration, comments and recommendations must be received by the OMB desk officer via one of the following transmissions:

OMB, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs

Attention: CMS Desk Officer

Fax Number: (202) 395-5806 OR

E-mail: OIRA_submission@omb.eop.gov

To obtain copies of a supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed collection(s) summarized in this notice, you may make your request using one of following:

1. Access CMS' Web Site address at Web Site address at

[https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-](https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/PaperworkReductionActof1995/PRA-Listing.html)

[Guidance/Legislation/PaperworkReductionActof1995/PRA-Listing.html](https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/PaperworkReductionActof1995/PRA-Listing.html)

1. E-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and CMS document identifier, to Paperwork@cms.hhs.gov.

2. Call the Reports Clearance Office at (410) 786-1326.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Reports Clearance Office at (410) 786-1326.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. The term “collection of information” is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c) and

includes agency requests or requirements that members of the public submit reports, keep records, or provide information to a third party. Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)) requires federal agencies to publish a 30-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension or reinstatement of an existing collection of information, before submitting the collection to OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, CMS is publishing this notice that summarizes the following proposed collection(s) of information for public comment:

1. Type of Information Collection Request: Revision of a currently approved collection; Title of Information Collection: Coverage of Certain Preventive Services Under the Affordable Care Act; Use: The 2017 interim final regulations titled “Religious Exemptions and Accommodations for Coverage of Certain Preventive Services Under the Affordable Care Act” and “Moral Exemptions and Accommodations for Coverage of Certain Preventive Services Under the Affordable Care Act” expand exemptions for religious beliefs and moral convictions for certain entities or individuals whose health plans may otherwise be subject to a mandate of contraceptive coverage through guidance issued pursuant to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The interim final rules extend the exemption to health insurance issuers that hold religious or moral objections in certain circumstances. The interim final rules also allow plan participants and enrollees with sincerely held religious or moral objections to request coverage that does not include contraceptive services.

The interim final rules also leave the accommodation process in place as an optional process for objecting entities who wish to use it voluntarily. To avoid contracting, arranging,

paying, or referring for contraceptive coverage, an organization seeking to be treated as an eligible organization may self-certify (by using EBSA Form 700), prior to the beginning of the first plan year to which an accommodation is to apply, that it meets the definition of an eligible organization. The eligible organization must provide a copy of its self-certification to each health insurance issuer that would otherwise provide such coverage in connection with the health plan (for insured group health plans or student health insurance coverage). The issuer that receives the self-certification must provide separate payments for contraceptive services for plan participants and beneficiaries (or students and dependents). For a self-insured group health plan, the self-certification must be provided to its third party administrator. An eligible organization may alternatively submit a notification to HHS as an alternative to submitting the EBSA Form 700 to the eligible organization's health insurance issuer or third party administrator. A health insurance issuer or third party administrator providing or arranging payments for contraceptive services for participants and beneficiaries in plans (or student enrollees and covered dependents in student health insurance coverage) of eligible organizations must provide a written notice to such plan participants and beneficiaries (or such student enrollees and covered dependents) informing them of the availability of such payments.

Under the interim final regulations, eligible organizations can revoke at any time the accommodation process if participants and beneficiaries receive written notice of such revocation from the issuer or third party administrator in accordance with guidance issued by the Secretary, and if the accommodation process is currently being utilized, such revocation will be

effective on the first day of the first plan year that begins on or after thirty days after the date of revocation.

Final rules were published in the Federal Register on July 14, 2015 (80 FR 41318) under which qualifying closely held, for-profit entities may avail themselves of the accommodation to effectively exempt their plans from the otherwise applicable requirement to cover certain contraceptive services. Previously, this accommodation had been available only to non-profit eligible organizations. These final rules also finalized the 2014 interim final rules permit an eligible organization to notify HHS directly that it will not contract, arrange, pay, or refer for all or a subset of contraceptive services.

Due to judicial decisions preliminarily enjoining the implementation of the 2017 interim final regulations, the information collection requirements are drafted to be applicable under whichever accommodation rules are in effect (for example, the 2017 interim final rules, or the 2015 final rules if the 2017 interim final rules continue to be enjoined). HHS will only implement the ICRs under regulations that are legally in effect at the time the ICRs are used.

Form Number: CMS-10653 (OMB control number: 0938-1344); Frequency: On Occasion;

Affected Public: Private Sector; Number of Respondents: 110; Number of Responses: 110; Total

Annual Hours: 181. (For policy questions regarding this collection, contact Usree

Bandyopadhyay at 410-786-6650.)

Dated: April 17, 2018.

William N. Parham, III,
Director, Paperwork Reduction Staff,
Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs.

Billing Code: 4120-01-U-P

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